

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12754 01 OF 02 041240Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-10 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /066 W
-----081532 041331Z /46

O 041225Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0329

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPARTMENT TREASURY IMMEDIATE

HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL STUTTGART IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HAMBURG IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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SECSTATE PASS INR/RWE; EUR/CE

USIA PASS IOP/M; IOP/FW; IEU; IBS; IPS; IOP/F

SECDEF PASS ISA/EUR; ISA/MA&S

DEPARTMENT TREASURY PASS MACKOUR

HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN PASS CAPT. HARNEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS USMISSION OECD, ROBERT LEVINE

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF PASS PAO

AMCONSUL MUNICH PASS PAO; VOA/MR. HOPKINS
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PASS PAO
AMCONSUL STUTTGART PASS PAO
AMCONSUL HAMBURG PASS PAO
USMISSION USBERLIN PASS PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL NATO US GW
SUBJECT: EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN ON US DEFENSE
STRATEGY FOR EUROPE

REF: BONN 12707 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE GERMAN MEDIA REACTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE EVANS/NOVAK COLUMN OF AUGUST 3 IN WHICH THEY STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD RECEIVE A NEW DEFENSE STRATEGY FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL THIS WEEK WHICH "SECRETLY CONCEDES ONE-THIRD OF WEST GERMANY TO A SOVIET INVASION."

2. GERMAN RADIO PICKED UP THE EVANS/NOVAK STORY IN AFTERNOON BROADCASTS FOLLOWED BY STRAIGHT REPORTING ON NATIONAL TELEVISION. THERE WAS NO COMMENTARY ON RADIO OR TV, AND THE STORY BROKE TOO LATE FOR THE PRINT MEDIA ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3.

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3. STRONG DENIALS BY THE WHITE HOUSE, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN, AND THE DEPARTMENT APPEARED SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH ARTICLES ON THE EVANS/NOVAK PIECE IN MOST PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPERS TODAY.

4. NEWS AND EDITORIAL SUMMARIES:

5. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE AND GENERAL-ANZEIGER LED WITH STORIES ON THE SECRET STUDY WHICH -- ACCORDING TO AN EVANS/NOVAK ARTICLE IN YESTERDAY'S INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE -- ENVISAGES SURRENDER OF ONE-THIRD OF THE FRG'S TERRITORY IN THE EVENT OF A SOVIET ATTACK. THE REPORT IS SUPPOSED TO BE SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT CARTER THIS WEEK, PAPERS NOTED.

6. GENERAL-ANZEIGER SAID IN A DPA STORY THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF A NEW U.S. DEFENSE CONCEPT WHICH ENVISAGES A LINE OF DEFENSE ALONG THE WESER AND LECH RIVERS. GAZ ALSO QUOTED THE FRG MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AS SAYING THAT, IN VIEW OF WASHINGTON'S DECLARED POLICY, THIS STUDY -- IF IT EXISTS AT ALL -- MUST BE CONSIDERED EVEN LESS THAN

HYPOTHETICAL.

7. QUOTING BONN'S DEFENSE MINISTRY, KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS FORWARD DEFENSE AS ONE OF THE BASES OF GERMAN MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. PRESIDENT CARTER CONFIRMED THIS CONCEPT TO THE CHANCELLOR, THE MINISTRY RECALLED.

8. RHEINISCHE POST (DUESSELDORF, PRO-CDU) SAID THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN ENERGETICALLY DENIED THAT THE U.S. CONSIDERED SURRENDER OF ONE-THIRD OF THE FRG IN A

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WAR. THE PAPER QUOTED BROWN'S PERTINENT STATEMENTS TO A SENATE COMMITTEE. RHEINISCHE POST ALSO COVERED A STATEMENT BY THE WHITE HOUSE THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION ADHERES TO THE CONCEPT THAT AN ATTACK ON WESTERN EUROPE MUST BE STOPPED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT OCCUPIED TERRITORY MUST BE RECOVERED, IF NECESSARY, BY USE OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

9. FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE: BONN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID THAT AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS ARTICLE BRZEZINSKI CALLED GENSCHER IN ORDER TO INFORM HIM OF THE FACTS AND TELL HIM THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WILL MAKE A DECLARATION.

10. ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE IN ITS TOP STORY BY ADELBERT WEINSTEIN, WRITING FROM BRUSSELS: THE EVANS/NOVAK ARTICLE HAS STARTLED NATO CIRCLES. THEY FEEL THAT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST MISTRUST IN THE HONESTY OF U.S. DEFENSE EFFORTS REPRESENTS A PSYCHOLOGICAL DANGER. THEREFORE DENIALS ARE NOT ENOUGH. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT THERE WILL BE A SHIFT IN U.S. STRATEGY. NATO CIRCLES ARE PARTICULARLY ALARMED BY WASHINGTON'S OPTIMISTICAL BELIEF THAT IT MIGHT MAKE A SURRENDER OF MILITARY POSITIONS PALATABLE TO THE EUROPEANS BY NOT GOING INTO THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS MILITARY POLICY.

11. KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER: BONN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES BELIEVE SUCH A STUDY MIGHT ACTUALLY EXIST. BUT THEY ALSO POINT TO MILITARY QUARTERS IN NATO WEIGHING UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBILITIES WHICH DEVIATE FROM THE OFFICIAL DOCTRINE. A DEFENSE LINE OF THE WESER RIVER WAS DISCUSSED BE-

FORE, BUT WAS ABANDONED IN THE END, THEY RECALL.

12. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (INDEP) EDITORIAL BY ADELBERT WEINSTEIN: "THE FOREGROUND IS DOMINATED BY AN EXCITING REPORT FROM TWO AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS ... IN THE BACKGROUND THERE IS MISTRUST -- THE MISTRUST OF THE WEAK WHO IS AFRAID THAT THE STRONG WILL NOT HELP HIM. MISTRUST IS THE WORST BASIS FOR AN ALLIANCE. IT DOES DAMAGE TO ALL -- IN THIS CASE TO THE AMERICANS, THE EUROPEANS AND THE SOVIETS. MAINTAINING THE STATE OF NONWAR IS ALSO A PSYCHO-STRATEGIC TASK. WAR CAN ONLY BE PREVENTED IF THE OTHER SIDE IS AFRAID THAT IT WILL INCUR AN INCALCULABLE RISK BY ATTACKING NATO. IF THE EAST CONSIDERS THE RISK SMALL, IT MIGHT CONCLUDE THAT THE WAR CAN BE WAGED AND WILL LEAD TO VICTORY. IN THE NUCLEAR AGE SUCH ASSESSMENT WOULD BE WRONG ... FOR WHOEVER BREACHES THE PEACE TOUCHES OFF NUCLEAR ESCALATION, AND THIS STRIKES BACK ON THE AGGRESSOR. THUS ALSO THE SOVIETS WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM THE WEST'S WEAKENING ITS DEFENSE READINESS BY TENTATIVE PLANS.

13. "AND THE PLAN REPORTED BY EVANS AND NOVAK -- TWO EXCELLENTLY INFORMED CORRESPONDENTS -- MUST BE A TENTATIVE STRATEGY PLAN. BUT THIS WEIGHING OF OPTIONS REFLECTS AN ALARMING IGNORANCE OF THE WORLD. WE HAVE GOT USED TO MANY THINGS COMING FROM WASHINGTON. BY SUGGESTING MFL -- THE NUCLEAR FLEET WHICH FOUNDERED LONG AGO -- OR A 'PAUSE,' OR 'LIMITED WAR,' AMERICAN THEORISTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CONFUSION OF STRATEGIC PLANNING. IF IT IS TRUE WHAT HAS BEEN REPORTED ON THE 'INVENTION' MADE BY THE PRESIDENT'S SECURITY ADVISER WE CAN ONLY SHAKE OUR HEAD. WHAT ALLEGEDLY WAS THOUGHT OUT THERE SIMPLY MUST NOT BE THOUGHT. WE HOPE CARTER WILL KEEP HIS POLITICAL

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INSTINCT, AND EUROPE WILL KEEP ITS COOL. AFTER THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL DISASTER, RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE IS WHAT NATO NEEDS FIRST OF ALL."

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Message Attributes

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